

DETAILED ACTION

1. The drawings were received on 02/04/2010. These drawings are accepted by the examiner.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. Claims 16-35 are allowed.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

3. Regarding claims 16-20, the prior art references of record failed to teach or suggest wherein the primary circuits of the transformers corresponding respectively to the first and second pre-trigger systems are connected in parallel in combination with other limitations recited in the claimed invention.

4. Regarding claims 21-25, the prior art references of record failed to teach or suggest wherein the primary circuits of the transformers are electrically connected to the outputs of the control device in combination with other limitations recited in the claimed invention.

5. Regarding claims 26-30, the prior art references of record failed to teach or suggest wherein the primary circuits of each transformers is electrically connected a capacitor that is charged under the control of the control device in combination with other limitations recited in the claimed invention.

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6. Regarding claims 31-32, the prior art references of record failed to teach or suggest wherein the control device is sensitive to voltage in combination with other limitations recited in the claimed invention.

7. Regarding claims 33-35, the prior art references of record failed to teach or suggest wherein the primary circuits of the transformers corresponding respectively to the first and second pre-trigger systems are connected in parallel in combination with other limitations recited in the claimed invention.

8. Veraldi (US 4,280,098) in (Fig. 5), discloses a surge protector device of the spark gap lightning arrestor kind, the device comprising: first spark gap (53); first pre-trigger system (51) electrically connected to the first spark gap (53) in such a manner as to enable an arc to be struck therein; and Control device (94) electrically connected to the first pre-trigger system (51) in such a manner as to activate it; the protector device includes at least one second spark gap (55) wherein connected in parallel with the first spark gap (53), and electrically connected to a second pre-trigger system (54) connected in parallel with the first pre-trigger system (51), in such a manner that the control device (94) activates the first (51) and second (54) pre-trigger system simultaneously so as to trigger the first (53) and second (55) spark gaps simultaneously (col. 6, ll. 64 thru col. 7, ll. 1-31 and ll. 34-38).

9. Danowsky et al. (US 6,111,740) in (Fig. 2), discloses wherein a pre-trigger system is formed by a system comprising a trigger electrode (8) together with a secondary winding (6) of a transformer (14).

10. Fahlen (US 4,625,254) discloses a voltage trigger means for a series capacitor protector wherein a spark gap is connected in parallel (abstract).

11. Cook (US 4,683,514) discloses a surge voltage protective circuit arrangements for protecting a load connect across a supply terminal against surge voltage comprising a gas filled arrester connected in parallel with a semiconductor arrester (abstract).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TERENCE R. WILLOUGHBY whose telephone number is (571)272-2725. The examiner can normally be reached on 9-6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jared Fureman can be reached on 571-272-2391. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Terrence R Willoughby/
Examiner, Art Unit 2836

/Jared J. Fureman/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 2836

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